

Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3609

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

INFO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUANDA 0659

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PFOR MILI AO CG

SUBJECT: CONFIRMATION OF ROBERTO'S SPLIT WITH MOBUTU AND FNLA'S
MOVE INTO ANGOLA

1. A KNOWLEDGEABLE FNLA OFFICIAL WHO WORKS CLOSELY WITH BOTH ROBERTO AND JOHNNY EDUARDO CONFIRMED LOCAL RUMORS OF A SERIOUS RIFT DEVELOPING BETWEEN FNLA'S PRESIDENT ROBERTO AND PRESIDENT MOBUTU OF ZAIRE OVER THE FUTURE OF THE OIL RICH ENCLAVE OF CABINDA WHILE ROBERTO INSISTS THAT CABINDA IS, AND WILL REMAIN, AN INTEGRAL PART OF ANGOLA. OUR SOURCE INSISTED THAT FNLA WOULD FIGHT AGAINST MOBUTU IF ZAIRE OR FLEC TROOPS MOVE AGAINST CABINDA. THE FNLA MILITARY COMMANDER IN CABINDA CONFIRMED THIS TO A VISITING CONGEN OFFICER (SEPTEL). FINALLY, A SWISS JOURNALIST RECENTLY ASKED JOHNNY EDUARDO ABOUT THE SPLIT "OFF THE RECORD." EDUARDO SAID "TURN YOUR TAPE RECORDER BACK ON" AND SAID FNLA WILL FIGHT ZAIRE OVER CABINDA IF NECESSARY.

2. IN ORDER FOR FNLA TO BE TRULY INDEPENDENT OF ZAIRE IT MUST
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MOVE ITS ENTIRE MILITARY APPARATUS INTO ANGOLA, FIND ALTERNATE

FINANCING, ATTEMPT TO EXTRICATE THE ANGOLAN REFUGEES STILL IN ZAIRE AND LOCATE ITS PRESIDENT IN ANGOLA. OUR SOURCE CONFIRMED THAT FNLA WAS DESPERATELY TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH THESE TASKS SIMULTANEOUSLY. HE SAID THEY WERE IN THE PROCESS OF MOVING THEIR LARGE TRAINING BASE, 10,000 RECRUITS AND THEIR CHINESE ADVISORS FROM KINKUZU IN ZAIRE TO QUIENDE IN ANGOLA (SEE LUANDA 622). ROBERTO'S RECENT TRIP TO THE ARAB STATES WAS DESIGNED TO OBTAIN MONEY AND WAS A GREAT SUCCESS. OUR SOURCE, WHO ACCOMPANIED ROBERTO ON THIS TRIP, WOULD NOT GIVE AMOUNTS NOR SAY DEFINITELY WHO WERE THE BIG CONTRIBUTORS BUT HE HINTED THAT KUWAIT AND THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES HAD BEEN MOST COOPERATIVE. ON REFUGEES HE SAID FNLA WAS ENCOURAGING ANGOLANS IN ZAIRE TO LEAVE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND THAT AT LEAST 100,000 HAD ALREADY RETURNED. HE WAS UNCERTAIN AS TO WHEN ROBERTO WOULD COME TO ANGOLA AND HE SEEMED DISMAYED THAT ROBERTO HAD NOT COME ALREADY, BUT HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT ROBERTO WOULD SOON RELOCATE TO SAO SALVADOR.

3. WE ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO ASSESS THE DEGREE OF DISHARMONY BETWEEN ROBERTO AND MOBUTU ON THE SUBJECT OF CABINDA. NEVERTHELESS THE ONE TOPIC ON WHICH ALL THREE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AGREE IS THAT CABINDA MUST BE PART OF ANGOLA AND THAT THE MOVEMENTS CLAIM THEY WILL FIGHT, TOGETHER WITH THE PORTUGUESE, AGAINST ANY MILITARY ACTION BY FLEC OR ZAIRE AGAINST CABINDA. THIS HAS BEEN STATED PUBLICLY ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS BY SPOKESMEN FOR EACH GROUP AND CONFIRMED IN PRIVATE CHATS WITH US.
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